

Political Science 329 Spring 2024 Sage 2215 MWF 11:30—12:30 Credit Hours: 3.0	Professor Michael Jasinski Sage 4624 Office Hours: Thu 11:30—2:30 jasinskm@uwosh.edu
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Political Psychology

“On the whole human beings want to be good, but not too good, and not quite all the time.”
 -- George Orwell, “All Art Is Propaganda: Critical Essays”

Course Description: The course will focus on politically relevant aspects of human psychology and behavior, both individual and group. Topics discussed will include individual needs and preferences, the concept of rationality and alternative views on the conception of self-interest, factors affecting perception of the surrounding political environment, and how these phenomena translate into individual and group political activity.

Prerequisites: None.

Political Science Essential Learning Outcomes

Understand and apply theory frameworks

Political Science students should be able to

- recognize normative and ethical components of politics
- understand theoretical foundations of politics in the different subfields
- recognize the value of theories for making sense of the past and present
- apply theoretical arguments and concepts in the service of explanation or prediction of political phenomena

Understand and explain contemporary politics

- Political Science students should be able to
- demonstrate an understanding of current political debates and themes in the different subfields
- connect theory and history in the service of answering “big questions” facing contemporary politics.

Grade and Assessment Policy: Your course grade will consist of the following:

Grade Composition

Weekly Reaction Papers: 15%

Exam 1: 15%

Exam 2: 15%

Exam 3: 15%

Initial Research Project Submission: 5%
Final Submission: 25%
Class Participation: 10%

Class Participation: I will use an “honor system” in which each of you will record your class participation for each class session. Students with regular class participation will receive a 100% grade, students with sporadic/rare participation will receive 80% grade, and students with no participation a 60% grade. While there is no separate Attendance grade, students with extensive unexcused absences will have their class participation downgraded by 20%.

Exams: There will be three exams, each covering 4-5 weeks of the course. Each exam will consist of 30 multiple choice and 4 short essays. They will be drawn off study guides for each of the week’s lectures. You may bring your notes (printed or hand-written) to the exam, but may not rely on printed readings or lecture notes, nor on any electronic devices.

Weekly Response Papers: Starting with Week 2, each of the week’s assigned readings will have a response question assigned to it. You will pick two of the readings to address. Each of the two answers is worth three points (for a response total of six points), assigned as follows:

- 150 words in length
- Cites the assigned reading at least once
- Answers or attempts to answer the question asked.

Readings marked with an asterisk * will not have a *written* weekly response question assigned. These articles are intended for discussion on Monday (Wednesday, for exam weeks). Be prepared to discuss the response question verbally on the first day of the week.

However, in cases where there is only one reading assigned for the entire week, one section of the reading will have a verbal response assigned, while others will have written responses assigned.

Weekly responses are due on Tuesday evening of the week assigned. Submissions past the due date will suffer a four point penalty. There will be a total of 13 weekly response papers.

--**Research Project:** This paper, of 12-15 pages in length (double spaced, 12pt font, etc.) will count for 30% of your course grade. The initial submission will count for 5% of the total grade, and the final submission, due at the end of the semester, will count for the remaining 25%.

For the topic, pick one of the following options.

Option 1: Event Framing. The focus of your paper would be a single event (ideally, a crisis situation), and the policy recommendations made by two individuals interpreting the same

event (ideally, the recommendations may be quite different). They may be members of the same “team” or opposing ones.

The objective here is to try to determine why and how these two individuals viewed the same situation in very different ways, in other words, to ascertain the types and sources of bias evident in the views of these individuals. Your paper should examine the following aspects of the framing process:

- Individual operational codes.
- Loss and gain frames.
- Potential sources of misperception and bias.
- Game theory
- Group membership

The aim of the analysis is to ascertain which of the individuals’ perception of reality turned out to be more valid, and determine which of the factors listed above played the key role(s).

Option 2: Political Movement Analysis. Pick a leader of an organization, political movement, political party, or a nation-state and analyze the relationship between the leaders and the followers.

- Is the movement built around positive or negative goals?
- What are the leader’s motives, skills, and abilities?
- What is the leader-situation and leader-follower match in this instance?
- What is the reward structure for the followers?

And, last but not least, which of the above-mentioned factors determined the movement’s success or failure?

Research Paper Grading Criteria:

Each paper will be evaluated according to the following:

- Introduction that establishes what the topic of your paper is, and its importance to understanding political behavioral processes.
- A clear hypothesis which explains the argument you are making in the paper.
- Extensive empirical evidence backing up your hypothesis.
- Supporting your assertions and evidence with bibliography and citations.
- Proper grammar, syntax, spelling.

Each of the above five categories is graded as follows: A (-0 points), B (-3) C (-5) D (-7) F (-10)

--**Attendance:** Highly encouraged! I will take attendance regularly, and while there is no attendance grade, there is a class participation grade (explained below) which will suffer if you have significance attendance gaps.

Grade Scale: Final course grades will be assigned as follows: A: 92 and higher. A-: 90-91; B+: 88-89; B: 82-87; B-: 80-81; C+: 78-79; C: 72-77; C-: 70-71; D: 60-69; F: 0-59.

Course Schedule

Week 1 2/5, 2/7, 2/9 Introduction

Simon, "Human Nature in Politics"
Bumpus, "Phrenology"
Bank, "Of 'Native Skulls' and 'Noble Caucasians'"

Week 2 2/12, 2/14, 2/16 Misperception and Bias

Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception"
Jervis, "The Drunkard's Search"
Nyhan and Reifler, "When Corrections Fail"
Nyhan, "Facts and Myths about Misperceptions"

Week 3 2/19, 2/21, 2/23 Neuroscience

Camerer et al, "How Neuroscience Can Inform Economics"
Fehr and Rangel, "Neuroeconomic Foundations of Economic Choice"
Boone and Piccinini, "The Cognitive Neuroscience Revolution"

Week 4 2/26, 2/28, 3/1 Rationality

Barnes and Sheppard, "Is There a Place for the Rational Actor?"
Babula, "Political Values in a Threat Environment"
Bendor and Swistak, "The Evolutionary Stability of Cooperation"
Orbell and Dawes, "A Cognitive Miser Theory of Cooperator's Advantage"

Exam 1 Monday 3/4 (Weeks 1-4)**Week 5 3/4, 3/6, 3/8 Prospect Theory**

Gurr, "Relative Deprivation and the Impetus to Violence"
Levy, "Applications of Prospect Theory to Political Science"
Tversky and Kahneman, "Rational Choice and the Framing of Decisions"
Druckman and McDermott, "Emotion and the Framing of a Risky Choice"

Week 6 3/11, 3/13, 3/15 Operational Codes

Walker, "Motivational Foundations of Political Belief Systems: A Reanalysis of the Operational Code Construct"
Grunske and Jasinski "Two-Level Game Operational Code"
Jaros, "Socialization to Politics"
Dyson, "Russian President Vladimir Putin"

Week 7 3/18, 3/20, 3/22 Game Theory

Kollock, "Social Dilemmas: The Anatomy of Cooperation"
Snyder, "Prisoner's Dilemma and Chicken Models in International Politics"
Oskamp, "Factors Affecting Cooperation in a Prisoner's Dilemma Game"
Grieco, "Realist Theory and the Problem of International Cooperation"

Spring Break**Week 8 4/1, 4/3, 4/5 Group Behavior**

Cottam, "The Political Psychology of Groups"
Stets and Burke, "Identity Theory and Social Identity Theory"
Bearman, "The Social Structure of Suicide"
Tetlock, "Accountability: A Social Check on the Fundamental Attribution Error"

Week 9 4/8, 4/10, 4/12 Trust

Hardin, "Conceptions and Explanations of Trust"
Yamagishi and Kiyonari, "The Group as the Container of Generalized Reciprocity"
Stolle, "The Sources of Social Capital"
Bacharach and Gambetta, "Trust in Signs"

Exam 2 Monday 4/15 (Weeks 5-9)

Week 10 4/15, 4/17, 4/19 Political Leadership

Nye, "Types and Skills"
Herrmann and Hagan, "Leadership Matters"
McDermott, "Leadership,"
Winter, "Leader Appeal, Leader Performance"

Research Paper Initial Draft Due, Friday 4/19

Week 11 4/22, 4/24, 4/26 Social Movements

Cottam, "Voting, Role of the Media, and Tolerance"
Klandermans, "Collective Political Action"
Huddy, "Group Identity and Political Cohesion"
Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic"

Week 12 4/29, 5/1, 5/3 Nations

Masters, "The Biological Nature of the State"
Hobsbawm, "Nation as an Invented Tradition"
Orwell, "Notes on Nationalism"
Druckman, "Nationalism, Patriotism, and Group Loyalty"

Week 13 5/6, 5/8, 5/10 Violence

Nelson, "Review of the Biological Bases of Conflict"
Ember and Ember, "War, Socialization, and Interpersonal Violence"
Levy, "Misperception and Causes of War"
Darley, "Social Organization for the Production of Evil"

Week 14 5/13, 5/15, 5/17 Genocide

Shawn and Wong, "Ethnic Mobilization and the Seeds of Conflict"
Harvey, "Primordialism, Evolutionary Theory, and Ethnic Violence in the Balkans"
Kaufman, "Spiraling to Ethnic War" (through p. 118 only)
Jasinski, "Means, Motive, and Opportunity"

Exam 3 (Weeks 10-14) F 5/17

Final Paper due Friday, 5/17

Additional Course Information

Incomplete Grades: Students are responsible for meeting the criteria for Incomplete grades, as established by College of Letters and Science. See the enclosed form on Canvas for further details.

Early Alert: A few weeks into the semester your instructors will send you an early alert message if they think that you are struggling with class. This message will let you know whether your instructors have noticed any academic problems, attendance problems, or both. When you get such a message it is a chance to address a problem and improve on your work. We suggest meeting with your instructor.

Expectations for Academic Honesty: A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here: <https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

Syllabus Modifications: If substantive changes are made in course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus made available.

Grievance Procedure: The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. Tracy Slager, slagtert@uwosh.edu. Should she be unable to resolve your concerns, she will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

Disclosure statement: STUDENT RIGHT TO KNOW ACT (1990) Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Student Right to Know Act of 1990:
<https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>

Disabilities Policy: It is university policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Please contact your instructor as soon as possible to discuss any accommodations you might need and provide appropriate documentation.

Note to Political Science Majors: Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. If you have questions about this requirement, your course schedule, possible internships, or career preparation please reach out to your faculty adviser. Students are encouraged to meet with their faculty advisers at least once per year. If you are unsure who your adviser is, you can check TitanWeb or email Ms. Angelee Hammond at hammond@uwosh.edu.